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Soviet Outlays

Soviet defense spending has grown 4-5% a year in real terms since 1965, and will continue to increase at least through 1985, the Central Intelligence Agency estimates. It is unlikely that economic difficulties expected in coming years will force a reversal of Soviet policy to continue improvement of military capabilities. The CIA also provided dollar comparisons, putting Soviet defense spending in 1979 at \$165 billion, or 50% above U. S. outlays. However, Rep. Les Aspin (D.-Wis.) warned last week that CIA figures put Soviet military salaries at U. S. levels, causing Soviet defense figures to be higher.

The Senate Armed Services Committee published testimony last week given earlier by Lt. Gen. Kelly H. Burke, Air Force deputy chief of staff for research, development and acquisition, who said capital investment for Soviet military forces topped the U. S. effort during the 1970s by \$240 billion. The difference between the U. S. and Soviet military procurement accounts during that period was \$150 billion in favor of the Soviets, Burke said.